

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled, and Claims 23-32 have been added, leaving Claims 23-32 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Support for new Claims 23-32 and the new abstract can at least be found in the specification at page 6, line 24 to page 8, line 4.

The specification and drawings have been amended to correct certain informalities, as explained in detail below. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference numeral 42 mentioned in the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that reference numeral 42 is mentioned in the specification and illustrated in the figures, e.g., Figures 3-4. However, with regards to the use of reference numeral 42 in the specification at page 8, lines 8, 12, the reference numeral 42 is discussed in relation to Figure 11, but not illustrated in Figure 11. Applicants have amended the specification to delete reference numeral 42 in relation to Figure 11.

Further, the drawings are objected to because “they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: ‘40, 64, 70, 72, 74, 76’ (Fig. 3); ‘52, 58, 60, 62, 64, 80, 82, 84, 86’ (Fig. 4); ‘149’ (Fig. 7).” (O.A., page 2). With regards to Figure 4, Applicants respectfully point out that reference numeral “58” is illustrated in the figure. With regards to the other reference numerals cited by the Examiner, Applicants have amended each figure to remove each of the cited reference numerals.

With regards to Figures 1-2, Applicants have amended the drawings to include a designation as “Prior Art”. This correction is circled for the Examiner’s convenience. Additionally, with regards to Figure 2, Applicants have amended the figure such that the lead line for reference numeral 28 more clearly points to the mat support material.

Additionally, Applicants have reviewed the drawings as requested by the Examiner and noticed that reference numeral “42” appears in Figure 8, but is not mentioned in the specification with regards to that figure. Applicants have amended Figure 8 to remove reference numeral 42. With regards to Figures 3-4, the reference letter “D” is illustrated in the figures, but not discussed in the specification. Applicants have amended the figures to remove the reference letter “D”.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not limited to one single paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that 37 CFR 1.72 does not require the abstract to be a single paragraph and that MPEP 608.01(b) merely states that the “abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph within the range of 50 to 150 words.” (Emphasis added). Nevertheless, Applicants have submitted a substitute abstract that is one single paragraph.

With regards to the Examiner’s concern in relation to reference numeral “90” and reference numeral “152”, Applicants have amended the specification for consistency. More particularly, “end ring 90” has been amended to “mat protection ring 90”, and “angular flare 152” to “retention feature 152”.

Further, in reviewing the specification as requested by the Examiner, it was noted that reference numeral 146 is used to describe “shell 146” and “shell tube 146”. Applicants have amended “shell tube 146” to “shell 146” to provide consistency in the specification. Additionally, on page 6, lines 29-30, “exhaust manifold 140” is discussed in relation to Figure 8, but reference numeral “140” is not illustrated in the figure. Applicants have amended the specification to remove reference numeral 140 in relation to Figure 8.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is moot, as Claims 1-8 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,555,070 to Krüger. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

This rejection is moot, as Claims 1-8 have been cancelled.

Prior Art Made of Record

Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 23-31 are novel and non-obvious over the art made of record. More particularly, the art made of record, either alone or in combination, at least fail to teach or suggest a catalytic converter comprising an exhaust manifold comprising a manifold wall; a catalytic converter shell, wherein a portion of the catalytic converter shell is disposed within the manifold wall; and a catalyst substrate disposed in the catalytic converter shell. Moreover, the art made of record, either alone or in combination, at least fail to teach or suggest a catalytic converter comprising an exhaust manifold comprising a manifold wall; a catalytic converter shell comprising an inner endcone and an outer endcone, wherein a portion of each the inner endcone and the outer end cone are disposed within the manifold wall; and a catalyst substrate disposed in the catalytic converter shell. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 23-31 are allowable over the art made of record.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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